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# Financial Support

## MODIFICATIONS of the Financial Support of the Library.

### *The British Museum*

No library considers that it has sufficient financial support, and in general terms this would also be maintained by the library staff. On the other hand, provided a strong enough case is made out, the Treasury is not, in the long run, unresponsive to urgent needs. Perhaps the greatest lesson which the library has learned from its contacts with government departments controlling expenditure and "services," e.g. the Ministry of Works and the Stationery Office, is that it is necessary to make out a completely detailed statement of its needs and to be prepared to stand by that statement. This is rather an obvious lesson but one that librarians generally need to learn and re-learn.

On the question of finance generally, it has been suggested that a system similar to that employed by the University Grants Committee, whereby financial provision is made for a period of five years, and within the sum allotted, considerable freedom allowed to the institutions in their disposal of it, would be valuable for national libraries.

### *The National Central Library, London*

Since the end of the war there has been a very substantial and gratifying recognition of the National Central Library's work on the part of Her Majesty's Treasury through gradually increasing grants-in-aid from state funds, and the Library is now much better fitted to deal with the demands which postwar conditions and opportunities have brought. This is not to say that with much larger funds the work could not be expanded and deal with many more cooperative enterprises.

### *The National Library of Wales*

Government support has increased considerably during the post-war years, and the Library is now almost entirely maintained by the

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state, the grant from Her Majesty's Treasury for the present financial year being £51,000 (\$142,800). This grant is for maintenance only, and the Treasury refuses to undertake any capital expenditure.

### *Bibliothèque Nationale, France*

The activities of the Bibliothèque Nationale have increased greatly since the end of the war. While the subscription from the state has also increased materially the relative increase has not kept pace with the higher costs of materials and salaries. This is particularly serious in the matter of conservation and restoration of the Library's collections. Large sums will be needed for several years for binding, mending, and repair.

The subscription from the state is by far the largest source of income. Other income comes from the city of Paris and from the sale of publications and photographs. In 1952, 1953, and 1954, the autonomous budget has varied respectively from 193 (\$559,700) to 219 (\$635,100) to 207 (\$600,300) millions of francs.

### *Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Florence*

The Library's budget has been increased notably in the postwar period insofar as present total amounts of appropriated money go. Nevertheless, the appropriation is relatively smaller than in prewar days and is less in proportion to the institution's needs.

### *Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Netherlands*

The Library is completely state-supported, and detailed budget proposals have to be submitted and approved each year. Appropriations for current accessions are now four times what they were before the last World War but standing at f. 130.000 (\$34,190) they are still anything but ample.

### *Schweizerische Landesbibliothek, Switzerland*

To keep pace with the increase of work and prices, a noticeable augmentation of staff and credits has been received.

### *Millî Kütüphane, Ankara*

The main source of income is the Turkish government. Every year the budget is approved by Parliament and up to now the amount of money appropriated has been ever-increasing. This government budget is supplemented by a certain sum donated by a special society called the "Millî Kütüphaneye Yardim Dernegi" (Society to Promote the Advancement of the National Library).

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### *The National Diet Library, Japan*

No modifications of financial support are discernible. The National Diet Library is sustained entirely by government appropriation; the detail is given below:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Personnel</i>	<i>Administrative</i>	<i>Repair</i>	<i>Total Budget</i>
1948	362	58,912,000	22,263,000	81,175,000
1949	491	92,275,000	7,140,000	105,415,000
1950	527	137,508,000	5,140,000	142,643,000
1951	593	179,263,000	35,171,000	214,434,000
1952	566	209,012,000	82,250,000	291,262,000
1953	566	343,182,000	85,874,000	429,056,000
1954	557	320,186,000	50,000,000	370,186,000

(The official rate is 360 yen to the American dollar.)

These figures reflect a sound development of library services. Administrative expenses include allotments to various divisions.

### *Bibliothèque Publique de la Régence de Tunis*

Typical figures for acquisitions, binding, and subscriptions:

1945: 300.000 F. (\$870)
1947: 1.200.000 F. (\$3,480)
1950: 4.217.948 F. (\$12,180)
1954: 7.600.000 F. (\$22,040)

### *Biblioteca Nacional, Argentina*

The Library's budget is sufficient for its needs.

### *Biblioteca Nacional, Cuba*

Financial support will be radically modified with the completion of a new building.

### *Biblioteca Nacional de Guatemala*

The monthly appropriation amounts to 1,400 quetzales (\$1,400), of which 500 are encumbered for the acquisition of books and other materials. In addition, 900 quetzales (\$900) monthly are allotted to the forty-two public libraries in the various states of the republic for the acquisition of material and bibliographic apparatus.

### *Biblioteca Nacional, El Salvador*

From 1941 to the present, the Biblioteca's budget has received such notable increases that it amounts today to four times as much as it was in that year.

*South African Public Library, Cape Town*

The amount of financial support granted to the Library by the state has increased from £2,000 (\$5,600) in 1937 to £20,000 (\$56,000) in 1954, and the Treasury has become the most important source of library revenue.

A further and fundamental change was also made in 1954, following the recommendation of 1937 that the national and municipal activities of the South African Library should be "separately financed and administered."

In 1944 the trustees persuaded the City Council of Cape Town to appoint a Library Commission, which reported in 1945 to the effect that the municipality should take the initiative in financing and administering a city-wide free library service. In 1949, provision was made in the Cape Provincial Library Ordinance, for the proclamation of urban library areas, of which Cape Town was one, and the subsidization of approved free library services operated in those areas, to the extent of 50 per cent of their expenditure, by the provincial administration.

By 1952, the beginnings of a separate City Library Service were in operation, and in that year the city appointed a Libraries Development Officer, with the task of building up a peninsula-wide municipal library service. Backed by the authority of the municipality and the provincial subsidy, this Development Officer, B. G. Hood, was able to bring the existing 10 independent "suburban" libraries under the new authority, and by 1954 was operating from a central headquarters in Cape Town, a system comprising 25 branches and service points.

In accordance with its general policy, the South African Library concluded an agreement with the City Council in 1954, under which the new City Library Service took over the former public lending functions of the Library, but for an intermediary period of five years, rented part of the existing library building as a central lending unit.

As a result of these changes, the former subscribers to the South African Library have ceased to exist as a source of revenue, which is now derived chiefly from the Union Government, from an annual municipal grant and rental, and from interest on investments, amounting in all to approximately £24,000 (\$67,200) per annum.